

19 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 19 February 1965

General Carter was in the Chair as Acting DCI.

Current Intelligence Briefing covered the Vietnam coup, yesterday's BARRELL ROLL mission in Northern Laos, riots in Seoul, Congo, assassination of Brazzaville Congo officials, Sudan, France - South Pacific, [redacted] indications of changes in Cuban cruise missile deployment toward a concentration in the West near Havana.

[redacted]

DDS&T reported on the successful TACKLE mission to South China last night, [redacted]

[redacted] CORONA 1017 is scheduled for launch today; [redacted]

[redacted] DDS&T referred to a cable to General Carter from Kelly Johnson concerning the [redacted] DDS&T said he would discuss this privately with General Carter.

Houston reported on the status of Early Retirement Regulations. He noted that Representative Selden continues to want to be briefed on Cuban affairs and it was noted that the letter to DCI from Representative Moss concerning the Agency's "administrative practices" will not require a detailed response.

Chretien reported on the indictment of a right wing journalist named [redacted]

[redacted] reminded that there is a briefing ready for DDCI and DCI on the complicated problem of requirements for satellite-obtained SIGINT.

[redacted]

DDI noted that Joe Alsop some time ago had said that Col. Thao would return to Saigon and stage a coup.

DDI said he had acquired a copy of the draft presentation to be made to the SecDef concerning the NVN role in Vietnam. It appears relatively harmless from a security standpoint and will be studied for specific comment.

DDI said we had acquired a copy of the draft Presidential statement to be made when the next ChiCom nuclear explosion occurs.

Executive Director referred to a Presidential request that all Government employees read his statements concerning the balance of payments problem and "natural beauty."

General Carter asked that the memo on the situation in the Congo produced and disseminated yesterday by DDI be made available to Rowen of USIA.

There was a discussion of various pitches being made by Soviet officials abroad on the Vietnam matter. DDI will attempt to do a round-up of these approaches. Note was taken of the comment made to Dr. Lovelace at the Soviet Embassy here on 17 February suggesting that the US withhold further actions against NVN while the Soviets try to persuade NVN to relax its pressure.

General Carter directed that procedures be laid on to disseminate as quickly as possible our CIA intelligence information relating to the current situation in Vietnam. Concerning the draft statements for SecDef and Presidential use, General Carter asked that we look at them not only from a security or intelligence standpoint, but as an opportunity to provide helpful and imaginative advice.

General Carter noted that he had not been given an opportunity to study the  report. It is available in DDI and will be sent forward.

General Carter briefed on yesterday's White House meeting on Vietnam. In this connection, General Carter asked that Chretien send him the verbatim remarks made by the President on 17 February. He requested that DDI obtain a State Department circular providing policy guidance on the Vietnam matter. It is a cable from which the President read at the White House meeting.

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General Carter asked whether we were in fact caught by surprise by the current coup in Vietnam. He was advised that we had long known that Col. Thao was in hiding in Vietnam and was an inveterate plotter. Abbot Smith read from the 4 February SNIE which stated that Khanh was in serious danger of being toppled.

General Carter directed that a copy of his letter to NSC members warning against surfacing of SIGINT be given to John McNaughton, DOD/ISA.

H. Knoche